



"THE CARE OF HUMAN LIFE AND HAPPINESS, AND NOT THEIR DESTRUCTION, IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE OBJECT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT."

-THOMAS JEFFERSON

# The Informer

The Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Task Force



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*Making a Difference in Tennessee*

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## Youth Camps Continue Into Successful Summer



Drug Demand Reduction personnel administer a physical fitness test to students during the camp.

## Youth C.A.M.P. Gets Students Back on Track

By Staff Sgt. David Burchfield  
Drug Demand Reduction

This summer, five Tennessee counties participated in the Children's Attitude Motivational Program, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Services. These counties included Bledsoe, Grundy, McMinn, Rhea, and Roane. The students in camp were all under court order to attend and complete the camp. Their offenses ranged from skipping school to drug problems. After about five weeks, the students got the chance to compete against each other in a physical fitness test. The competition helped to give each team focus, improve their physical health, and come together as a team. Bledsoe County students came in first place. All of the students showed great improvement by the end of the camp.



Staff Sgt. David Burchfield stands with the Bledsoe County students who won the competition.

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## DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

### "BEE LIKE ME" Has Long-Term, Positive Results



(L to R) "BEE LIKE ME" creator, Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Jones, Jonathan Hays and two family members, Master Sgt. Tammy Herremans and Col. Gary Hicks.

#### By Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Jones Counterdrug Task Force

July 16, 2008 was a significant day. On this day, Jonathan Hays was sworn into the Tennessee Air National Guard at the 164th Air Wing in Memphis. While his swearing the oath of enlistment is important in its own rite, what was truly significant is this is not the first time Airman Basic Hays has 'worked' for the Guard.

In 1999, at the ripe-old age of 11, Jonathan was selected and trained as a mentor to younger students participating in the "Bee Like Me – Bee Drug Free" program at Brownsville Road Elementary School in Memphis. The "Bee" was a peer-mentorship program conducted by the Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Division in elementary schools across the state. Jonathan and other students were positive role-models in lower grade classrooms. The curriculum worked on life-skills such as Self-Esteem, Decision Making, Effective Communication, and age-specific Drug Education.

Jonathan credits some of his success to lessons he learned as a 'Bee'. He witnessed friends stumble in life and make mistakes that had negative impacts on their future. He also credits the program with some abilities that have helped him remain focused.

Even after retiring the gold t-shirt that announced to the world "Follow Me to Success", Jonathan held on to the "tool-kit" of skills he had learned. By taking the time to consider the consequences of his actions, especially those that involved immoral or illegal activities, Jonathan avoided many of the pitfalls that claimed his friends. The "Bee" program also increased his self-esteem and gave him the perspective of a being a role-model, 24-7.

"I felt a sense of responsibility to younger kids and wanted to set a good example for them", he explained.



Col. Gary Hicks gives the oath of enlistment to Jonathan Hays.

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There is another twist that makes this story remarkable. Then Senior Airman, now Master Sergeant Tammy Herremans has had the unique opportunity to have a positive effect on this man twice in his young life. Master Sgt. Herremans was a member of the Counterdrug Division's Drug Demand Reduction program in 1999. She trained the "Bee Like Me" mentors and oversaw the program at Brownsville Road School. (Cont. on Page 3)



## DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

### "Gear-Up" Gets Students College Bound

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Harold Kelley



Staff Sgt. Ken Blackwell of the Drug Demand Reduction Team, marches Gear-Up students.

**By Sgt. 1st Class Harold Kelley**  
**Drug Demand Reduction**

In 2000, the Counterdrug Task Force began working with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga *Gear-Up* program. *Gear-Up* helps 7th and 8th grade low income, inter-city students succeed in getting a college education. In 2001, *Gear-Up* started a youth camp for their students. Each camp has two, one week sessions with 60 to 70 students per week. The Counterdrug Task Force conducts physical training, marching, and mobile team challenge for the students. Our Drug Demand Reduction personnel have really had a positive influence on many of the students since 2001. Several of the students joined their high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Of those students, five became Battalion Commanders at their schools and went on to participate in ROTC in college.

### FY 2008 STATS

*Tennesseans Reached  
From Oct 07 to Aug 08*

Elementary School.....	20,869
Middle School.....	94,134
High School.....	25,044
College/University.....	3,083
Adults.....	20,211
Total.....	163,341

### CADCAT Director Awarded National Guard Medal



Pam White after receiving the Distinguished Service Medal.

**By Capt. David Roberts**  
**Counterdrug Public Affairs**

Pam White, Director of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions Across Tennessee, was recently awarded the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal. Pam was recognized for her work with the Counterdrug Task Force in developing anti-drug coalitions across Tennessee. The award was presented by Lt. Col. Byron Deel, the Counterdrug Task Force Commander. The Distinguished Service Medal is the highest award for service given by the Tennessee Military Department.



### "BEE" Cont. from Pg. 2

Currently, Master Sgt. Herremans is a recruiter at the 164th Air Wing; and in fact she's not just a recruiter... she is Jonathan Hays recruiter! Jonathan remembered Master Sgt. Herremans from the "Bee" program and even attributes her involvement in the program as a reason he selected the Air Guard when considering joining the military. But Jonathan never dreamed he would hear her voice when he called the recruiting office.

"When I heard her voice, I knew instantly who she was" he says. "She was just the same... happy, energetic. She has always offered me guidance. I knew I could follow her anywhere."

Master Sgt. Herremans was also touched by the occasion.

"I wanted to make a difference" she says about her involvement with the "Bee Like Me..." program. "This is special because I can see the affects of my efforts!"

A powerful jolt of pride hit her during the actual recruiting process. "In going over some of the pre-qualifying questions for enlistment I had to ask Jonathan if he had ever possessed, used, or distributed drugs. I was thrilled when he answered *Never*," she explains.

Airman Basic Hays will be leaving for basic and technical training in the near future. He looks forward to enjoying a successful and rewarding career with the Tennessee National Guard. As for the first time he 'worked' for the Guard, Jonathan states, "My thanks to the *Bee Like Me*... program, without it I wouldn't be here."



## DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

### Hamilton County Students Learn to "Beat the Heat"

By Sgt. Tommy Vaughn  
Drug Demand Reduction

While working with a court ordered youth camp, we had two guest speakers talk about the dangers of street racing; Officer Warren of the Chattanooga Police Department and Mr. Eric Gullett of Coker Tires.

The Police Department has an educational program for young people about street racing called *Beat the Heat*. Officer Warren spoke on wrecks that he has worked over the years, many times caused by young drivers driving too fast and under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Mr. Gullett spoke to the teens on personal experiences he had growing up in L.A. with street racing and how there are safe and correct ways to race.



(L to R) Sgt. Tommy Vaughn, Hamilton Co. students, Mr. Gullett, and Officer Warren.

Officer Warren also brought his drag racing car which is sponsored by the Coker Tire Company. By the end of the program, these kids walked away with a different perspective about street racing.

Street racing, especially under the influence, can seem cool on television, but when you add real people and families to the equation, it's a different story. The visit was a big eye opener for the students.

## DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION

**\*\* Names of personnel and locations are withheld for operational security \*\***

### FY 2008 SEIZURES

From Oct 2007 to Aug 2008

\*\* Seizure information is from drug cases that were supported by the Counterdrug Task Force through Criminal Analysis, Ground or Aerial Reconnaissance.

Cocaine (lbs.).....	865.3
Crack Cocaine (lbs.) .....	306.3
Meth (lbs.).....	486.4
Meth Labs.....	323
Heroin (lbs.).....	113
Khat (lbs.).....	5,197
Arrests.....	862
Vehicles.....	68
Weapons.....	176
Proc. Marijuana (lbs.).....	8,415.2
Marijuana (Plants).....	437,072
Currency.....	\$10,931,164



A small marijuana patch as seen from a spotter aircraft.

### West Tenn. Eradication Efforts Make Two Cases

By Capt. David Roberts  
Counterdrug Public Affairs

The Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication recently made two cases in a west Tennessee county. These cases began

when National Guard and Highway Patrol spotter helicopters located possible marijuana plants beside or behind a residence. Ground teams arrived and confirmed the plants were marijuana and found several more in close proximity. The entire week was a productive one for eradicating marijuana in the two counties, but the individual cases were icing on the cake.